

ELCINA POLICY CAPSULE

Part 2
April 2025

ELCINA POLICY CAPSULE—16th April to 30th April 2025

1. ECMS Guidelines and Portal Launched by MeitY On 26th April 2025

On 26th April 2025, Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), officially launched the **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** guidelines and online portal. This significant initiative is designed to bolster India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem by incentivizing the domestic production of key components, sub-assemblies, and capital goods.

The ECMS addresses critical gaps in the electronics supply chain, supports value addition, and attracts both domestic and global investments. With the launch of the scheme's guidelines, India is poised to become a globally competitive electronics manufacturing hub.

The official notification for the scheme was released on **8th April 2025** <https://ecms.meity.gov.in/documents/ECMS%20Notification%20notified%20on%2008.04.2025.pdf>, marking the beginning of a transformative phase for India's electronics sector.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official Meity website https://ecms.meity.gov.in/documents/ECMS%20Guidelines_26.04.2025.pdf

2. CBIC Circular No. 14/2025-Customs dated 21st April 2025: CBIC Amends CAROTAR Guidelines to Incorporate "Proof of Origin" in Line with Global Trade Practices

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has issued **Circular No. 14/2025-Customs** to amend the guidelines for implementing the **Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020 (CAROTAR, 2020)**.

This follows **Notification No. 14/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 18th March 2025**, which replaces the term "**Certificate of Origin**" with "**Proof of Origin**" in accordance with the amended **Section 28DA of the Customs Act, 1962**. The change aligns Indian customs procedures with international best practices, emphasizing **self-certification, simplified compliance, and trade facilitation**.

"Proof of Origin" now includes:

- Certificates issued by designated issuing authorities.

- Self-declarations made by eligible exporters or producers, as permitted under specific trade agreements.

As a result, **Circular No. 38/2020-Customs** must be read in conjunction with this amendment. The applicable form of origin documentation will continue to depend on the provisions of each relevant trade agreement.

For streamlined verification of Proof of Origin:

- All requests must be routed to the **Directorate of International Customs (DIC)**, New Delhi.
- The **FTA Cell at DIC** will be responsible for:
 - Receiving, uploading, and disseminating specimen signatures and seals of authorized officials from partner countries via the **ICES portal**;
 - Sharing this information with the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Headquarters**.
 - Circulating records to **non-EDI Customs locations** via email.

Furthermore, the **FTA Cell** will:

- Develop a **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** to track, update, and verify specimen records; and
- Submit **periodic reports** to the Board through the International Customs Division.

These changes are effective immediately.

The amendment simplifies origin verification, enables self-certification, aligns with global trade norms, reduces paperwork, centralizes processing via DIC, and strengthens oversight through standardized procedures and improved record management.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website CBIC Circular No. 14/2025-Customs dated 21st April 2025.

3. CBIC Circular No. 15/2025-Customs dated 25th April 2025: Simplification of Air Cargo Movement & Transshipment Procedures

The CBIC has issued **Circular No. 15/2025-Customs** to implement Budget 2025–26 directives on streamlining air-cargo operations:

- **Transshipment Permit Fees Waived:** The ₹20 permit fee per transshipment has been abolished by amending the Goods Imported (Conditions of Transshipment) Regulations, 1995 (Notification No. 30/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 24 April 2025).
- **Harmonized ULD Movement:** Unit Load Devices (ULDs) may be temporarily imported outside customs areas under a **Continuity Bond**—mirroring marine container rules (Circular No. 31/2005-Customs).

- ULDs with or without pre-affixed tracking devices qualify.
 - Tracking devices/data-loggers must bear Unique Identity Numbers (UINs) and comply with BCAS security guidelines.
 - Air carriers/console agents are responsible for proof of re-export within prescribed timelines.
 - Note: Exemption does *not* cover loose tracking devices not affixed to ULDs.
 - Imports by non-carrier entities continue under Board Circular No. 51/2020-Customs.
- **E-Transshipment & National Bond Facility:** The **All-India National Transshipment Bond** (launched 2022) and ICEGATE-enabled e-transshipment eliminate multiple bonds and physical visits to cargo service centres. Airlines, console agents, and air-transhippers are encouraged to adopt these digital facilities.

These measures aim to reduce compliance burdens, expedite clearances, and bolster user-friendliness across all air-cargo operations.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website CBIC Circular No. 15/2025-Customs dated 25th April 2025.

4. DGFT Public Notice No. 02/2025-26 dated 15 April 2025: Amendment to Appendix 2K: User Charges & Fee Processes under FTP 2023

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has revised **Appendix 2K** (Scale of User Charges and Process for Deposit/Refund of Application Fee/Penalty, etc.) under the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, effective immediately. Key changes include:

- **New Registration Fee:** A ₹500 fee now applies for issuance of **Automatic Registration Numbers** under Import Monitoring Systems (SIMS / CIMS / NFMIMS / PIMS, etc.).
- **Fee Schedule Updates:**
 - Preferential Certificate of Origin: ₹600
 - Advance Authorization / DFIA / EPCG (MSMEs): ₹100 up to ₹1 Cr; ₹5,000 above
 - Export License/SCOMET: ₹1,000
 - Amendment/Correction in Licenses or Scrips: ₹200
 - Review of Committee Decisions: ₹5,000
 - ...and other fees as detailed in the revised table.
- **Payment Modes:** Online via DGFT's payment gateway or e-Miscellaneous Payments System (eMPS) using net-banking, cards, UPI, etc.

- **Refund & Adjustment:** Fees are non-refundable except for overpayments, erroneous deposits, or exempt applicants. Refund claims must be filed within one year; sanction orders remain valid for three months. Adjustment provisions allow reuse of fees when an authorization/scrip is reissued under a corrected scheme.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official DGFT Website DGFT Public Notice No. 02/2025-26 dated 15th April 2025 and **updated Appendix 2K** to ensure compliance with the new fee structure and processes.

5. DGFT Trade Notice No. 02/2025-26 dated 21st April 2025: New “Mode of Export of Services” Field in eBRC Format (Effective 1 May 2025)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has updated the Electronic Bank Realisation Certificate (eBRC) format for services exports. Key points:

- **New Data Field:** From **1st May 2025**, exporters certifying eBRCs linked to Insurance Realisation Mandates (IRMs) must specify the **“Mode of Export of Services”**.
- **Four GATS-Aligned Modes**
 - a) **Cross-Border Supply** (Mode 1): Services delivered remotely (e.g., IT, telemedicine)
 - b) **Consumption Abroad** (Mode 2): Foreign consumers travel to India (e.g., tourism, medical treatment)
 - c) **Commercial Presence** (Mode 3): Indian entities establish operations overseas (e.g., bank branches, IT subsidiaries)
 - d) **Presence of Natural Persons** (Mode 4): Indian professionals travel abroad temporarily (e.g., engineers on assignment)

Enhance the **granularity and accuracy** of India’s services-export statistics and align reporting with **WTO–GATS norms**.

For further details, members are advised to refer to the official DGFT Website DGFT Trade Notice No. 02/2025-26 dated 21st April 2025.

6. DGFT Trade Notice No. 03/2025-2026, dated 23rd April 2025: DGFT Invites Stakeholder Feedback on Export Policy Amendment for SCOMET Items

The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has issued **Trade Notice No. 03/2025-2026**, dated **23rd April 2025**, inviting inputs on proposed amendments to the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** for the export of **SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) items**.

The amendment pertains to **Para 10.08(vi)** of FTP 2023 and corresponding provisions in **Para 10.13 of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP)** and aims to facilitate the **temporary export of SCOMET items for “Testing and Evaluation”** purposes.

In line with **Para 1.07A of FTP 2023**, DGFT is seeking suggestions, comments, and feedback from exporters, industry associations, and other stakeholders to ensure the proposed policy changes are comprehensive and industry-aligned.

-  **Deadline for submissions:** Within **10 days** of the Trade Notice (by **3rd May 2025**)
-  **Submit feedback to:** scomet-dgft@gov.in

For further details, *members are advised to refer to the official DGFT Website DGFT Trade Notice No. 03/2025-2026, dated 23rd April 2025.* This is a key opportunity for stakeholders engaged in sensitive technology exports to contribute to a more enabling export framework.

7. RBI Circular No.: FE.CO.Trade.S3212/05.31.042/2024-25 dated 1st April 2025 : RBI Extends Relaxation for Closure of Small-Value Shipping Bills in EDPMS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the existing relaxation for Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks to close shipping bills up to **USD 1,000 (INR equivalent)** under the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) till **September 30, 2025**.

Key Highlights:

- **Extended Validity:** The dispensation initially issued on November 28, 2024, will now remain valid till **30th September 2025**.
- **Conditions for Closure:**
 - AD bank must be satisfied with the **bona fide** nature of the transaction.
 - **Export proceeds must have been received.**
 - Exporter’s **self-declaration** may be obtained if required.
 - No **KYC/AML/CFT concerns**.
 - Exporter should **not be under investigation or legal proceedings** related to the transaction.
- **Export Realisation Reduction:** AD banks may allow reduction in export realisation if the full amount could not be recovered despite genuine efforts or due to unavoidable circumstances.
- **No Penalty:** Banks are advised **not to impose penalties** for any regulatory delays caused to exporters.

This move is aimed at easing compliance and supporting exporters in clearing older small-value shipping bills efficiently.

For further details, *members are advised to refer to the official RBI Website RBI Circular No.: FE.CO.Trade.S3212/05.31.042/2024-25 dated 1st April 2025.*

8. DPIIT Notification No.: S.O. 1815(E) dated 17th April, 2025 : Extension of Exemption for Hermetic Compressors under QCO

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has issued a new amendment to the *Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Order, 2019.*

Key Highlights of the Amendment Order, 2025:

- **Hermetic Compressors of capacity up to 2 TR (7000 W) have been exempted from mandatory BIS certification under this QCO for one year from the commencement of the amendment order.**
- **This exemption is applicable only to manufacturers of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment and related parts, and that too on actual user basis.**
- **The order came into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette (17th April, 2025).**

This is the **seventh amendment** to the original 2019 QCO, which has been periodically updated to accommodate industry feedback and facilitate smooth compliance.

Previous notifications:

- S.O. 4354(E) dated 5th December 2019 (Original Order)
- Follow-up amendments: 18 May 2020, 22 Dec 2020, 8 Dec 2021, 21 Dec 2022, 2 Jan 2024, 11 Feb 2025

For manufacturers in the air conditioning and refrigeration supply chain, this relaxation offers much-needed breathing room for aligning with BIS standards, especially for low-capacity compressors.

For further details, *members are advised to refer to the official DPIIT Website DPIIT Notification No.: S.O. 1815(E) dated 17th April 2025.*

For any queries regarding this ELCINA Policy Capsule, please contact policy@elcina.com.

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